Boulder County annually approves a 5-year Capital Improvement Project budget for the Parks and Open Space Department. With a budget of $775,000 divided among six categories, the plan helps the department to prioritize improvements on open space and engage the public prior to implementation of new facilities. The plan also provides a structure for seeking partnerships and grant funds to help leverage our budget.
Funds for capital improvement projects come from two sources, open space sales tax revenues and revenues from agricultural leases. The agriculture revenues go back into capital projects related to agriculture, while the sales tax revenue is divided between five categories.
This chart shows the distribution of the CIP funds in normal years. But then came the historic flood of September 2013, and since that time 2013 has been anything but normal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIP Budget</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation &amp; Facilities</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystems</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Resources</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$775,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This map shows the approximate extent of flooding in Boulder County, and it illustrates that county-owned open space property was extensively impacted.
The severity of flood damage created immediate repair needs. The Parks and Open Space staff evaluated current CIP projects to determine how many could be put on hold. Staff was able to make about $342,500 (44% of 2013 CIP) available for immediate flood repair needs.
Despite the flood-related reduction in CIP funding, we do have many accomplishments in 2013, listed in these next two slides. Project photos and details follow.

2013 CIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ag Heritage Center site improvements and new display design
- Beech Restroom
- Castle Rock Bridges – engineering
- Cardinal Mill Access plan approval
- Nederland Mining Museum reroof
- Rock Creek Grassland Trail – IGA with Broomfield
- Flagg Park – IGA Completed, Delayed by Flood
2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Harney-Lastoka Farm – machine shed restoration
- Rocky Mountain Mammoth Mine Cabin
- Macy center pivot
- Native plant propagation
- Rock Creek riparian restoration design
- Pella/Marlatt shoreline stabilization
- Heil forest thinning
Agricultural Heritage Center:

The original Stroh/Dickens exhibits were installed in 2000-2002, and after many years of use it’s time to start replacing them. In 2013, we finished the design and writing phases of the new irrigation exhibit. The exhibit will be installed by end of the year. 2015 funds will replace the “food” exhibit.

Recreation and Facility budget funded driveway improvements and upgraded an agriculture irrigation structure that had caused erosion problems to the trail. Next time you come to the farm, you’ll notice the grade of the entrance has been improved, the gates have been moved, and the visibility of the highway has improved. This work has increased the safety for those going in and out of the parking lot.
**Nederland Mining Museum:**

Boulder County acquired the Nederland Mining Museum artifacts in October 2012, housed in the unique County-owned building located at the roundabout in Nederland. The 1937 stone building was constructed by local men with the use of indigenous materials to provide a highway maintenance garage during the height of the Depression. Funded by the Boulder County Commissioners using a “Special Road Fund,” the building is unique and represents Depression-era style in its simplicity and functional design. The Nederland Area Historical Society leased the building from the County and in 2004 established the mining museum inside the building. The Historical Society approached the County in 2010 about the transfer of the museum operation to its oversight and in October 2012 the transfer was completed. The museum will complement the County’s other hard rock mining sites and serve as a possible starting point to the hard rock mining tour.

Building repairs will be funded through the Historic Preservation CIP budget
Harney-Lastoka Farm Site:

Located at the southeast corner of Highway 42 and South Boulder Road, the Harney-Lastoka property serves as a visual legacy of the coal mining and agricultural heritage of the area. Jointly owned by Louisville, Lafayette and Boulder County, all improvements costs are shared among the three entities.

2007: historic structure assessment of all the buildings and historic preservation master plan completed.
2007-2010: The Boulder County Youth Corps assisted County staff with repairs to the brooder house, chicken house, garage, pig pen and fencing from 2007-2010.
2010: rehabilitation completed in early 2010 for use by the resident farmer.
2011: County staff worked on repairs to the two loafing sheds and new milk house. In 2011, Louisville & Lafayette funded the costs for the Mule Barn engineering plans in 2012: Mule Barn rehabilitation to be used as part of the future onsite agriculture operation.
2013: Machine shed repairs—new roof, masonry repairs, and window and door repairs. The machine shed will be used as part of the future onsite agriculture operation.
Rocky Mountain Mammoth Mine Shathouse and Cabin:

The Rocky Mountain Mammoth Mine is located at the top of Magnolia Road and was purchased by Boulder County in early 2009. The Rocky Mountain Mammoth Mine is one of Boulder County’s most intact examples of a late 19th and early 20th century small scale hard rock mining operation once common in the foothills of Boulder County. Such intact sites are extremely rare and offer a unique opportunity for interpretation. The historic shaft house and cabin date from the late 19th century. In response to the failure of the wooden shaft collar and the migration of the shaft opening inside the shaft house, the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety appropriated emergency funding to close the shaft in late 2008. Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff nominated the property to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. In 2011, Historic Preservation CIP funds were used to develop engineering plans for both the shaft house and cabin in preparation for rehabilitation, completed in 2013.
Center pivot irrigation at Macy:

Two pivots were installed on the Macy property, located at the SW corner of State Highways 52 and 287. The first center pivot on Macy Open Space property irrigates approximately 146 acres. The second center pivot is a smaller system with coverage of about 92 acres. The tenant farmer grows sugar beets, corn, barley, alfalfa, and wheat in rotation. These sprinklers will assist the Ag tenant to convert to strip-tillage, which is very difficult under furrow or flood irrigation systems. The Ag tenant will cost share on this project.

The County installed all the infrastructure: power, holding pond with pump station, measuring devices, and conveyance pipelines to the center pivot. Total project cost was $253,000. Funding was through the 2013 CIP, EQIP grant and tenant contribution.
New Pumps for Center pivot & pasture irrigation at AHI:

The 659 ac. AHI property was purchased in April 2011. The County leases it for irrigated pasture. The tenant feeds the organic hay to his all natural cattle. In 2012, one of the four irrigation ponds had problems with leaks. Because of the leaks and presence of trees on the dam, the state engineer required it to be drained and repaired. The repair will be a long term project with costs beyond the scope of the Agriculture CIP. To replace the irrigation delivery, the County installed new pumps in the adjacent pond. The photo shows the pump installation with electrical panel, floating pumps and pipes, which deliver water to the pump station.
Native Plant Propagation:

The Rocky Flats Natural Resources Damages (NRD) Fund is providing grant funds through 2015 for native plant material development on the open space areas surrounding the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. Boulder County in partnership with the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks and Wildland Restoration Volunteers is collecting local, native ecotypes of seed that are not available commercially. We have contracted with two USDA NRCS Plant Material Centers to increase seed of four species, xeric big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), and Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*). The native seed we generate will be available for BCPOS ecological restoration projects and fire rehabilitation projects in the future.

The Native Seed Garden at the Peck Property is an in-house seed increase project in partnership with one of our tenants, Ollin Farms. The photos show two of the wildflowers we have grown out in the past two years, blanketflower (*Gailliardia aristata*) and blue flax (*Adenolium lewisii*) on the Peck property. Not shown is a third wildflower that was established this year, prairie coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*). Volunteers and the Boulder County Youth Corps have helped with all aspects of the native seed garden, including establishment, weeding, and harvest. In 2013, we harvested over 34.5 lbs of bulk seed.
Shoreline stabilization at Marlatt Ponds:

2013 CIP. The ponds at Pella Crossing West have bank erosion problems, and the erosion is beginning to creep over into private property. The most urgent goal is to stop the erosion of the east bank of Dragonfly Pond. Other important goals are to increase the diversity of bank vegetation, and to improve fish habitat by providing shade and brooding areas along the banks. The County contracted to have a hydrological study completed on the ponds and to provide recommendations on how to manage the water in 2009 and 2010. Water control structures were built in late 2012/early 2013. After a year of observing changes in the water, bank repair was completed in spring of 2013 at the Popular and Dragonfly ponds. The photo above shows the work that was done in partnership with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers this spring on Dragonfly Pond. This past spring’s project held up well during the flood, though another part of Dragonfly’s banks breached where we did not work.
Riparian Restoration along Rock Creek:

2013-2014 CIP. A portion of Rock Creek through the Carlson/Lastoka and Scriffany properties was historically straightened, with little valuable wildlife habitat. The historic meandering channel still exists and can be restored. The County received a grant from Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to help fund project construction and planting. The Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and the Town of Superior contributed matching funds.

Aerial photo of Rock Creek on BCPOS’ Carlson/Lastoka and Town of Superior properties.
**Rock Creek Grasslands Trails:**

Boulder County and City and County of Broomfield received a “mini” trails grant from GOCO in 2013. Funding will help begin construction of trail priorities identified in the management plan completed in 2011. Initial project priority will be the trail along Hwy 287 from Broomfield through Ruth Roberts and connecting to the regional Rock Creek trail. Estimated initial cost of $213K to build. Boulder County’s share will be in-kind construct the trail (except bridge) and Broomfield will contribute the majority of the cash along with the grant. An estimated scope and budget estimate for the trail segment going to Lafayette from the Pony Estates subdivision still needs to be determined.
Heil Valley Ranch Forest Rehabilitation

The county’s goal is to restore forest structure and density in order to restore natural processes (fire and grazing) disturbed since human settlement.

In 2013 the County completed its biggest and most complex forest treatment project to date. The Heil thinning contract began in Nov. 2012 and ended May 2013. The work was completed over winter to minimize impacts – ground is frozen, ground nesting birds; the contractor gave a $3,000/acre discount to work in the winter, saving us ~$100,000. This aerial map shows the south end of Heil Valley Ranch, where a contractor has begun thinning that will continue through May 2013.
Since the flood in mid-September, Parks and Open Space staff have sponsored 16 volunteer projects, resulting in over 1,600 volunteer hours contributed. Most projects were related to debris removal, with several trail rehabilitation projects. This photo shows the trail at Carolyn Holmberg Preserve, Rock Creek Farm.
Check [www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/wildwork](http://www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/wildwork) for volunteer opportunities